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EDITORIAL

The End Comes for the British ‘Iago’ in America’s Tragedy of War

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—Still unsated after seeing the United States wound itself in decades of continuous war-fighting and self-destructive social rage, the furious former British Prime Minister Tony Blair this week still demands more “anti-terror wars,” in two speeches to mark the 20th year since the 9/11 attacks. Since his first call for regime-change wars in 1999 at the Chicago World Affairs Council, this evil leprechaun, hated by England’s

people but acclaimed by London's imperial elite, has been the Iago to American Presidents cursed by endless war and endless post-traumatic stress disorder of every kind. And now, as *EIR* has reported in depth, Blair has led his fellow London warmongers in execrating President Joe Biden because he, disobediently to the U.K. and NATO, ended one of those wars.

The costs of these wars to the United States alone have included a true "debt trap"—65% of its entire federal budget deficit (and thus new federal debt) since Sept. 11, 2001; 15,000 military and contractor deaths; twice that many killed by their own hands in despair; hundreds of thousands scarred physically and psychologically; over \$2 trillion more in care for post-9/11 veterans in the coming years; who knows how many mass shootings and "suicides by cop" back home. And every country in which these wars have raged, without exception, is today economically ruined, or far worse, with their populations made refugees elsewhere on Earth.

Biden has only drawn one angry bite of the wrath directed for decades at Lyndon LaRouche by Her Majesty's Privy Council elite and their co-thinkers of the likes of [Henry Kissinger](#). LaRouche warned publicly eight months before 9/11 that a coming major terror attack on the United States was going to be followed by "[emergency government](#)." And he then told a large radio audience, as the attacks on the [World Trade Center](#) towers and the Pentagon were occurring, that the United States' security screen had been taken down by internal and foreign powers, and that Osama bin Laden was not an independent actor. Like Cicero mobilizing to defeat the Catiline conspirators, LaRouche told Americans to fight for the nation with intelligence, or give in to emergency government, surveillance state, and British Empire.

Few Americans would listen then as they are listening now. Helga Zepp-LaRouche has declared the withdrawal from Afghanistan both an opportunity and a responsibility to start a new paradigm of peace through economic development. "Get the solutions out now" to the destruction and suffering in Afghanistan, she says. All the regional nations surrounding Afghanistan want to integrate it with the Belt and Road Initiative and the

North-South corridor of Russia and India. This is the chance for the United States to cooperate in building up Afghanistan's missing infrastructure with the leading technological nations China and Russia, rather than confronting them and risking nuclear war. This very prospect makes London so furious.

Helga LaRouche's statement "[Can 'The West' Learn? What Afghanistan Needs Now!](#)" outlines the next steps including bold proposals for reconstruction. And she will speak this Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of that day in 2001, to a conference, "[9/11/2021: The Path Forward from September 11, Afghanistan, and the Surveillance State,](#)" unlike any other [event](#) that will be held on, or about, that day.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, September 7, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Blair Demands More R2P Wars in the Name of Fighting Radical Islam

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, increasingly desperate to defend the British Empire and his “responsibility to protect,” or its “R2P” doctrine, as it is known, delivered a psychotic speech to the [Royal United Services Institute](#) (RUSI) today in which he demanded more military interventions and more “nation-building” occupations despite the manifest failure of these policies in Afghanistan. He claimed that the West still faces a threat of 9/11-style attacks, but in order to make the threat even more frightening, Blair claimed that the threat now includes bioterrorism.

Blair, who the *Guardian* points out was then prime minister and supported military interventions in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003), insisted the terrorist threat remained a first order issue. He complained that “the pressure of short-term political imperatives is giving both allies and opponents of liberal open societies the belief that ‘our time is over.’ ” He

said he found it deeply “depressing” to hear Western opinion claim “that we are foolish in believing that Western notions of liberal democracy and freedom are exportable or will ever take root except in the somewhat decadent terrain of Western society.”

Blair insisted that “despite the decline in terrorist attacks, Islamism, both the ideology and the violence, is a first-order security threat; and, unchecked, it will come to us, even if centered far from us, as 9/11 demonstrated. Covid-19 has taught us about deadly pathogens. Bio-terror possibilities may seem like the realm of science fiction; but we would be wise now to prepare for their potential use by non-state actors.”

Blair suggested radical Islamism could not be confronted solely by drone strikes, surveillance and special forces. In a direct challenge to President Biden, who said last week that the era of remaking nations by military forces is over, Blair countered that “nation-making” must be a tool in the armory, and that a mix of hard and soft power may still be required. He admitted that in America there is “now an overwhelming political constraint on military interventions” but treated it as a challenge for Britain and NATO. He argued that “the loss of the will to fight, combined with an inability to think strategically represents a real self-imposed threat. If the enemy we’re fighting knows that the more casualties they inflict, the more our political will to fight erodes, then the incentive structure is plain.... For me, one of the most alarming developments of recent times has been the sense that the West lacks the capacity to formulate strategy. That its short-term political imperatives have squeezed the space for long-term thinking,” Blair said. “It is this sense more than anything else which gives our allies anxiety and our opponents a belief our time is over.”

What Blair refuses to accept is that the time for the British Empire, which he serves so loyally, is over.

Adding to Afghanistan’s Economic Disaster, Electricity from Uzbekistan Has Reportedly Been Cut

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—According to [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s](#) Uzbekistan Service, or Ozodlik, director Alisher Sidiq, as part of a panel

discussion, in a Sept. 5 RFE/RL podcast, Uzbekistan had been the supplier of 90% of electric power to Kabul “24/7,” and that even when Uzbekistan itself suffered lack of electricity, “the electricity dedicated to Afghanistan was always available,” he said. “And to my knowledge it was funded somehow by Americans. That’s why it’s highly interesting for Uzbek government. ... News were that there are electricity outages now across Afghanistan, including Kabul.” Sidiq said he was “wondering” if Tashkent had stopped power delivery. “Obviously Taliban is probably talking” to get electricity resumed, “but do they have money to pay for it? Or do they want to pay through other means, like by allowing cargoes to go through Afghanistan? They will have to decide about that,” he said.

The important fact is that Afghanistan’s physical economy depends on power from Uzbekistan, with transmission coming down through the Mazar-e-Sharif–Kabul–Jalalabad corridor in Afghanistan. That corridor needs urgently to be developed as a north-south rail, road, power, and development corridor from Tashkent to Kabul to Peshawar, Pakistan, where it intersects the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)—as the three Central Asian countries agreed to in February and submitted to the World Bank. And immediately, if this is more U.S. Treasury financial warfare against a Taliban government, it needs to be ended and the Uzbek power delivery restored.

Uzbekistan, a key nation for planning and carrying out Belt and Road-related development of Afghanistan, is being pressured by both RFE/RL and Soros Open Society networks to become a general refuge for Afghans “fleeing from the Taliban,” which would damage the two countries’ relations. Afghan and South Asian journalists are a prime group among those whom Open Society activists (such as two from Britain who were on the podcast panel) are trying to get out of Afghanistan. As the Afghan government forces were collapsing, pilots flew military aircraft into Uzbekistan, and the Taliban is now demanding their return, including the planes. A total of 585 Afghans got into Uzbekistan then, including some of warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum’s forces. The Taliban wants them all returned, Uzbekistan can hardly do this, and will likely have recourse to the

UN to mediate to send them to a third country or countries.. Another slick idea of the Open Society people was that Uzbekistan might send the Dostum fighters back into Panjshir Province to help the resistance against the Taliban. That would ruin Uzbek-Afghan relations for a long time.

The Uzbek-Afghan border is now closed, but Uzbekistan is waving through trains and trucks entering the corridor, which are mostly carrying trade to and from Pakistan.

Another strange note from RFE/RL: “The [U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe](#) on Sept. 1 announced plans to build a border-guard facility on the Tajik-Afghan-Uzbek border, where tensions have risen in recent months as Taliban fighters captured Afghan regions that abut Central Asia’s post-Soviet republics.” The embassy would apparently recruit guards for this border post, reported RFE/RL.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Labor Unemployment Benefits ‘Crisis’ Result of No Productive Employment Mission

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—The end of both Pandemic Emergency Unemployment benefits programs on Labor Day comes at a point when some 12-plus million Americans are on unemployment benefits and 9-plus million of those are on the federal emergency programs being ended (5.41 million on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and 3.80 million on Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation). This situation—high real unemployment and 75% of the unemployed receiving federal rather than regular state benefits—has persisted for six months, while the total number of people on all kinds of benefits has come down only from roughly 14 million to the current 12.2 million. After more than \$750 billion spent on these benefits, their cutoff threatens an eviction wave of millions of households.

This has occurred while the labor market has been continuously reported as “tight” with more job openings than job seekers, wages have risen steadily, and some states have ended the federal emergency unemployment

benefits to try to force people back to work. This has not worked, only about one-eighth of people cut off benefits have found work, only 7% of benefits lost have been replaced by new wage earnings.

The reality is not mysterious, given the complete lack of any national productive job creation mission or program over the entirety of the past 18 months' economic collapse, the huge cash relief legislation passed (though big chunks of that federal cash has not been used even now), and the more and more inflationary "recovery." Of the continuing deficit of 6.5 million jobs in the U.S. economy relative to February 2020, some 5.6 million were non-productive, largely "informal employment," "gig jobs" and the like, the majority held by Americans who had not completed a college education. These people are most of those still on the emergency benefits which end today. Those jobs are not about to return soon. The 235,000 new jobs reported in August, though taken by President Biden as "a poor result," simply represented the normal level of job gains for August in the five years prior to 2020.

Secondly, inflation has outpaced the wage gains so widely discussed—except for the best-paid categories of white-collar work—and average real weekly wages have declined over 2021 thus far. The millions still on benefits thus have not been "turning down better jobs than they had." Inflation is fastest on the essentials, shelter and motor vehicles, and the rapid shelter inflation hasn't yet been factored into price indices and real wage calculations at all.

Third, states have failed to use the great majority of the \$57 billion from federal COVID relief legislation which was supposed to prevent these same unemployed Americans from being evicted. While claiming that many months are needed to create the needed systems of fair disbursement, many states have instead paid down bonded debt or built rainy day funds, etc.

With COVID again rampant, the number of unemployed who do not want to work inside is a factor; also the lessened demand for services in confined spaces, from restaurants to aircraft.

Nearly \$800 billion in federal funds has been spent on these benefits. The urgent necessity from the start of the pandemic has been nationally funded new, productive, largely infrastructure-project employment, with the central need being to build and staff new hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and medical supply production facilities.

FAO Figures Show Food Inflation Charges Up Again in August

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index, which had declined somewhat in June and July, jumped back up in August and was, again, 32.5% inflated in one year. There were large one-month price increases in the basics: sugar, 9.6%; vegetable oil, 6.7%; cereals, 3.4%. Supermarket prices in the U.S. and Europe are now expected to rise sharply this fall.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Four Times More GI Suicides than Killed in Battle

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—One of the more striking statistics compiled by the Watson Institute at Brown University on the costs of war is that, since 9/11, more than four times as many U.S. soldiers and veterans have committed suicide than were killed in battle. There were 7,057 killed in battle, and 30,177 suicides, further demonstrating the horrendous toll on soldiers sent into senseless and illegal wars.

A *Journal of the American Medical Association* study in 2019 on suicides by active duty U.S. soldiers since 1840 shows that the lowest number of such suicides in the 20th century were in 1944-45, the last two years of a horrendous, but just, war, at 5 per 100,000 service members. This increased to 18 per 100,000 in the last years of the Vietnam disaster, and set the record high of 29.7 per 100,000 in 2012 during the Iraq and Afghanistan endless wars, staying above 20 since then.

With ‘Obstructionist’ Cuomo Removed, New York Cannabis Legalization Snowballs under Hochul

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—In March 2021, New York State passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, opening up potentially the nation’s largest market to the Dope, Inc.’s bankers. Both before the bill passed and afterward, then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo—although he never campaigned against legalization, and eventually signed the bill into law—was seen as an obstacle, slow walking the legislative negotiations before the bill’s writing, then foot-dragging the process of creating the administrative details to facilitate the actual takeover by the dope pushers.

Then came impeachment, with the #MeToo and the related #TimesUp (legal) banshees turned loose against the governor. Shortly after Biden won the November 2020 election, the first publicized allegation against Cuomo surfaced, when Lindsey Boylan—an adviser from 2015-2018, made several tweets on Dec. 13. By the end of the “trial,” at least 11 women had come forward to accuse the governor of “harassment.”

New Gov. Kathy Hochul seems to have none of her former boss’s reservations. “Barely 48 hours into her new life as governor of one of the most powerful states in the country, Hochul has made big moves in the administrative end of legalization of marijuana,” says a Sept. 3 article in *Cannabis Wire*, a leading trade publication for the dope lobby. “Hochul nominated Chris Alexander as executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management, a powerful position that will put Alexander at the helm of the most eagerly anticipated legal adult use market in the U.S. Alexander was most recently the government relations and policy manager of the cannabis company Village, and is the former policy coordinator for Drug Policy Alliance,” supported by George Soros. Hochul also nominated Tremaine Wright to chair the state’s Cannabis Control Board, with both nominations having been swiftly rubber-stamped by the Senate.

No surprise to find, then, that Governor Hochul’s husband William is a general counsel for Delaware North (formerly SportServices), the Jacobs

family-run drug money-laundering “gaming company” first exposed by *EIR* in the bestseller book *Dope, Inc.*

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Belgian Businesses Seek To Have Nuclear Power Exit Reversed

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—“No one knows where we are going” on nuclear energy, the head of the Federation of Enterprises of Belgium Pieter Timmermans said in *Le Soir* on Sept. 4, urging political leaders to clarify the situation. “The closure of the nuclear plants is creating the most concern” of the issues in this regard, he said.

Under the existing government agreement, the generation of nuclear power in Belgium is supposed to end by 2025, unless an examination on the safety of the energy supply paves the way for the extension of two of the reactors.

“In early August we have the IPCC report, which states that maximum efforts must be made to reduce CO₂ production, and we, in Belgium, are we going to build gas plants to make up for the closure of the nuclear ones?” Timmermans asked. Voicing worry that Belgium’s energy independence might not be guaranteed, Timmermans demanded to know, “What are we doing in Belgium?”

Of course, carbon dioxide has nothing whatever to do with energy production, least of all nuclear, which is a breakthrough technology, a new technological platform, similar in effect to the implementation of electricity in the 19th and 20 centuries.

However, will the courage of business leaders in Belgium spark similar action among businesses in neighboring Germany? There the issue is even more urgent, as its final exit from nuclear energy is planned by the end of next year, threatening the shutdown of industry.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Spain's Water Crisis, by Greenies and Budget Cutters

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—The rulers of Spain have failed miserably in resolving the notorious shortage of fresh water supply, which has become aggravated, with less water available to farming, and more water for tourism centers, particularly in the summer when farmers need a lot of water to secure the harvest.

The southern regions of Spain around cities such as Alicante, Murcia and Almeria are depending upon water coming in via the Trasvase Tajo-Segura, a 400-km grid of canals that brings water from the Tajo River north of Madrid south, via three reservoirs, numerous aqueducts and tunnels and the Segura River. Brainwashed by the green ideology, politicians have charged that farmers are consuming too much water, and, therefore, the government has, since the beginning of August, cut water supplies to the south by one-third. The Constitutional Court of Spain has unfortunately prepared this insane decision, by ruling that the Tajo shall remain a natural river with enough water. Enraged farmers in the South have protested, with slogans defending the “Garden of Europe” which supplies the rest of the EU, particularly France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, providing one-third of their needs in fruit and vegetable produce.

The situation has compelled farmers to illegally tap water resources from the vast nature parks that have been declared in the south, where more than 1,000 of such wells have already been drilled. The offer to get water from the Mediterranean desalination plants is no real substitute for farmers, first, because of the high price; and second, because the water contains boron, an element that is not favorable to much of the fruit growing.

If not changed, the government's policy of inaction will wipe out a good deal of farming in the south. The change could, for instance, involve building a real water supply grid which in the south would also restore canal systems that existed during the Andalusian Arab period, many of which were destroyed by the “Reconquista” of the Spanish Catholic rulers after 1492. Some of these originally quite efficient systems that bring water

from the mountain regions down to where it is needed, have been privately restored by farmers, but the amounts made available have not been sufficient—because the population in the South is larger than during the Arab period, and because mass tourism to the coastal regions requires an immense water supply.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Taliban Want Relations with Regional Nations

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—TASS, citing Al Jazeera television, reported this morning that the Taliban intend to invite a number of other countries to attend the installation of the new government that they expect to announce within the next few days. “We have sent invitations to Turkey, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar to take part in the [ceremony] of announcing [the composition of the new Afghan] government,” said an unnamed Taliban representative.

Mohammad Akbar Agha, a former Taliban field commander and now the leader of Afghanistan’s High Council of Salvation, told TASS yesterday that the Taliban is very interested in establishing relations with Russia (where TASS specifies that it is outlawed), Iran and Pakistan. “We should establish broad relations with Moscow, since it is in the interests of both the Taliban and Russia. Iran and Pakistan are also countries we want to establish relations with. They need us and we need them,” said Agha.

Agha also stated that the Taliban have no objections against having a U.S. embassy in Kabul but Washington is afraid of it. “Before the United States’ invasion of Afghanistan there was a possibility to have good relations with Washington. But after their invasion and their crimes ... relations have worsened,” he said. Agha said that “there are chances that [diplomatic] relations between the United States and the Taliban will be established. I think the Taliban will not be against opening the U.S. embassy in Afghanistan. But the United States is afraid of the current situation in the country and most likely there will be no embassy for some time.”

Nord Stream 2 Pipeline Construction Will Be Completed This Week

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—The construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline will be completed this week, and the project will go online in the near future, Rainer Seele, the former head of the Austrian OMV, a multinational integrated oil, gas and petrochemical company headquartered in Vienna, told TASS.

Seele further mentioned that Nord Stream 2 CEO Matthias Warnig “said that without a doubt pipelaying will be completed this week.” Seele also told TASS that Nord Stream 2 will start pumping the first portion of gas this year. “I heard from [Gazprom deputy chairman of the board] Alexey Miller that gas will go through this pipeline this year. When it will take place, will depend on when the pipeline certification is completed,” Seele said. Gazprom owns Nord Stream 2. The fact that a deal on Nord Stream 2 was reached between Germany and the United States is a guarantee that the project will be implemented in the coming days.

Rainer Seele has been the head of OMV since 2015, but he resigned from the company on Sept. 1, 2021. He gave the interview to TASS, published Sept. 6, several days ahead of his resignation.